

At each of the three meetings of the Working Group, Canada and Sweden collaborated in the preparation of a Working Paper. It may be recalled that our first joint paper dealt to a large extent with technical aspects. The second discussed social, cultural, legal and other matters. The latest submission examined the issues relating to the development and utilization of this new method of broadcasting, highlighting questions of programme content and of effective and equitable participation in international direct broadcast systems. In our view, the Working Group Report has adequately taken into account the major proposals contained in the third/joint paper. In this connection, I would like to draw particular attention to Conclusion and Recommendation No. 5 on Page 16 which states:

The Working Group considers that, while further exploitation of various approaches to international co-operation in respect of broadcasting satellite systems continues to be desirable, co-operation and participation on the regional level, at least as a first step, appears to be the most practical and advantageous means of achieving desired results. Such participation in the establishment and operation of regional satellite broadcasting services and/or in programme planning and production, in most cases, would tend to meet the programme requirements and objectives of countries. Accordingly, the Working Group recommends that Member States and regional and international organizations should promote and encourage regional co-operative arrangements both on the governmental and non-governmental level, in order, inter alia, to increase the existing co-operation on a regional and international level among broadcasters and their associations for the future use of broadcasting satellite systems.

Mr. Chairman, my Delegation would also like to emphasize the value we attach to the work being done by international organizations such as the ITU, UNESCO AND BIRPI. Each has undertaken or is undertaking programmes of work of direct concern to this Committee as a